



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release

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DOYLE KICKS-OFF STAND DOWN 2001

County Executive Jack Doyle today announced that STAND DOWN 2001, Monroe County's initiative for veterans who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless, will take place as scheduled, tomorrow (Saturday, September 15, 2001). The event will take place at the War Memorial (7 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and partners Monroe County with the Upstate New York Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare Network, state agencies and other private partners.

"STAND DOWN is an event that shows veterans who have come upon hard times that we have not forgotten their past service and that our community is willing to give them something back," said Doyle. "The goal of STAND DOWN is to offer a hand up, not a handout. We briefly considered postponing the event this year, but given the number of military victims of the recent terrorist attack, I feel that its only appropriate to hold this event and to give needed assistance to past members of the United States military."

Homeless and at-risk veterans and their families will be provided with services including: medical treatment, dental screening, haircuts, eye exams, employment information, hot food, warm clothing, emergency housing and veterans benefits. This year's effort will be a one-day event, timed to provide support prior to the cold weather months. While the event is specifically for veterans and their families, no one requiring services will be turned away.

STAND DOWN 2001 teams the Monroe County Departments of Veterans Services, Social Services, Health, Office for the Aging and Mental Health with the Upstate New York VA Healthcare Network, State Department of Labor, University of Rochester School of Medicine, AIDS Rochester, the American Red Cross, the American Legion, the Salvation Army, Korean War Veterans, and Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 20) among others.

"STAND DOWN 2001 represents the Upstate New York VA Healthcare Network's ongoing commitment to assist homeless and at-risk veterans and their families in the greater Rochester metropolitan area," said Robert Van Keuren who is coordinating the event for the Network. "Veterans have sacrificed much for our country and STAND DOWN reaches out to assist them in their time of need."

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“Once again this year, the partners involved with STAND DOWN 2001 will come together to provide critical intervention services for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. Our goal is to give the necessary support to allow these individuals to once again contribute to our community,” said Doyle.

This will be the fifth year for STAND DOWN, which was initiated by County Executive Doyle to replace his successful pilot event, R&R '96. The STAND DOWN concept has been highly successful nationally and originated in San Diego, California.

In addition to the support of agencies, groups and individual volunteers, Monroe County's STAND DOWN 2001 is generously co-sponsored by: Frontier, DeCarolis Trucking, RTS, and the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 20) Thrift Store.

Beyond the provision of health care and other intervention services, the event is designed to allow participants and volunteers (many of whom are veterans themselves) to re-experience the camaraderie and friendships they experienced while in the service.

Free transportation will be provided for veterans by RTS and shuttles will also be stopping at various sites throughout the community to bring those in need of service to the War Memorial.

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*For further information, call:
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